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In the Claims:

The claims remain unchanged.

1. (previously presented) A computer implemented method for a casino patron betting, rating, and investment program, said method comprising the steps of:
  - establishing a casino investment account via a computer processor, said investment account for the benefit of a casino patron;
  - making a deposit into said casino investment account;
  - associating said casino investment account with a financial investment account of said casino patron;
  - redeeming said deposits from said casino investment account; and
  - transferring said redeemed deposits into said financial investment account.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of making a deposit comprises the step of depositing cash into said casino investment account.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of making a deposit comprises the steps of:
  - establishing a formula for calculating investment rating points to be awarded to a patron during game play;
  - calculating said investment rating points according to said formula during patron game play; and
  - issuing said calculated investment rating points to said casino investment account wherein said investment rating points are redeemable on a monetary basis by the patron for transfer into said financial investment account.

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4. (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of issuing said patron an investment rating card that is associated with said casino investment account of said patron.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of making a deposit comprises the steps of:

establishing a casino system of investment betting chips;

exchanging money for said investment betting chips;

placing bets with said investment betting chips; and

redeeming said investment betting chips for deposit on a monetary basis into said casino investment account.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of making a deposit comprises the steps of:

establishing a conventional rating account for the benefit of said casino patron;

establishing a formula for calculating conventional rating points to be awarded to a patron during game play;

calculating said conventional rating points according to said formula during patron game play;

issuing said calculated conventional rating points to said conventional rating account;

redeeming at least a portion of said conventional rating points on a predetermined monetary basis for transfer into said casino investment account.

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7. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said step of making a deposit further comprises the step of depositing cash into said casino investment account.
8. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said step of making a deposit further comprises the step of depositing cash into said casino investment account.
9. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein said step of making a deposit further comprises the step of depositing cash into said casino investment account.
10. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said step of making a deposit further comprises the step of depositing cash into said casino investment account.
11. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said step of making a deposit further comprises the steps of:
  - establishing a formula for calculating investment rating points to be awarded to a patron during game play;
  - calculating said investment rating points according to said formula during patron game play; and
  - issuing said calculated investment rating points to said casino investment account wherein said investment rating points are redeemable on a monetary basis by the patron for transfer into said financial investment account.

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12. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein said step of making a deposit further comprises the steps of:

establishing a formula for calculating investment rating points to be awarded to a patron during game play;

calculating said investment rating points according to said formula during patron game play; and

issuing said calculated investment rating points to said casino investment account wherein said investment rating points are redeemable on a monetary basis by the patron for transfer into said financial investment account.

13. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said step of making a deposit further comprises the steps of:

establishing a formula for calculating investment rating points to be awarded to a patron during game play;

calculating said investment rating points according to said formula during patron game play; and

issuing said calculated investment rating points to said casino investment account wherein said investment rating points are redeemable on a monetary basis by the patron for transfer into said financial investment account.

14. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said step of making a deposit further comprises the steps of:

establishing a system of investment betting chips;

exchanging money for said investment betting chips;

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placing bets with said investment betting chips; and  
redeeming said investment betting chips for deposit on a monetary basis into  
said casino investment account.

15. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said step of making a deposit further  
comprises the steps of:

establishing a system of investment betting chips;  
exchanging money for said investment betting chips;  
placing bets with said investment betting chips; and  
redeeming said investment betting chips for deposit on a monetary basis into  
said casino investment account.

16. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said step of making a deposit further  
comprises the steps of:

establishing a casino system of investment betting chips;  
exchanging money for said investment betting chips;  
placing bets with said investment betting chips; and  
redeeming said investment betting chips for deposit on a monetary basis into  
said casino investment account.

17. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said step of making a deposit  
comprises the steps of:

establishing a conventional rating account for the benefit of said casino patron;

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establishing a formula for calculating conventional rating points to be awarded to a patron during game play;

calculating said conventional rating points according to said formula during patron game play;

issuing said calculated conventional rating points to said conventional rating account;

redeeming at least a portion of said conventional rating points on a predetermined monetary basis for transfer into said casino investment account.

18. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said step of making a deposit comprises the steps of:

establishing a conventional rating account for the benefit of said casino patron;

establishing a formula for calculating conventional rating points to be awarded to a patron during game play;

calculating said conventional rating points according to said formula during patron game play;

issuing said calculated conventional rating points to said conventional rating account;

redeeming at least a portion of said conventional rating points on a predetermined monetary basis for transfer into said casino investment account.

19. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein said step of making a deposit comprises the steps of:

establishing a conventional rating account for the benefit of said casino patron;

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establishing a formula for calculating conventional rating points to be awarded to a patron during game play;

calculating said conventional rating points according to said formula during patron game play;

issuing said calculated conventional rating points to said conventional rating account;

redeeming at least a portion of said conventional rating points on a predetermined monetary basis for transfer into said casino investment account.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said casino investment account is operated and maintained by said casino.

21. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said casino investment account is operated and maintained by an independent financial institution.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said financial investment account is operated and maintained by said casino.

23. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said financial investment account is operated and maintained by an independent financial institution.

24-30. (previously canceled)